The Daily Eurofurence

Maritim Hotel Magdeburg. Friday, September 3rd, 2010 #8

The boys shake it for the audience. photo: bat

Furries Got Talent!

Although Stage Fever was the first large event on the new, bigger stage, the performers felt at home right from the start and delivered a delightful show.

A wild pot-pourri of acts were presented to the audience this year. It ranged from the problems of a poor hound with his wife and the local police, to a godzilla-esque reign of destruction: descending upon the hapless town through the paws of a giant purple cupcake-craving skunk. This year's acts where truly a wild romp of imagination. Some were thought-provoking, others just a hilarious collection of nonsense, sometimes minced with dark and politically incorrect humour. Some actors displayed an incredible amount of fursuiting skill, ranging from truly awesome dance moves, to such intricate tasks as playing guitars. A few of the jokes may have been hard to get for an audience not familiar with Internet memes such as "carmelldansen," yet that didn't seem to bother the audience, which was proven by ample applause. The show itself was confidently moderated by Mystifur, who didn't let technical issues get in the way of fun, much to the "horror" of the poor audience members, who fell prey to his so-called "evil time".

It was a great time for everyone involved, with every performer receiving stage-awards and acclaim. There were even a few nuggets of wisdom everyone could carry out of the showroom: Dogs make bad drivers, fishing on the stage is futile, keep a close grip on your wallets next to Vets Without Borders, and most important of all... there is no FIA! (cur)

Critters Compete for Spots in Limelight

On Thursday afternoon fursuiters were able take part in qualification competition for the fursuit gameshow. Altogether six different challenges awaited teams consisting of two fursuiters each. Four events would count towards the final score for classification, thus making participating in more of the events beneficial as the worst scores would get left out that way.

Contests especially involving speed included for example transferring plushie mice into baskets with a garbage picker. Some of the challenges demanded precision, into this category belonged the considerably difficult task to tie a lace onto a wooden rendition of a shoe and the electric game of passing a wire loop around a twisted wire. Charity round tasked the fursuiters to collect donations for charity with points awarded by value of donations

Fursuit: Manual Dexterity -2. photo: ang

and potentially deducted for taking too long to return. The main event with the eight best-scoring teams will start today 13:30 on main stage. (hHP)

The girls deep in thought. photo: chiatz

Please Draw: Armageddon

Eurofurence's tradition of artists' challenges on the main stage was continued yesterday in the form of "Banner Brawl". Fairlight and Twll, the two moderators who, according to their own words, "left their sanity back home in the UK" led through a game–format that was both simple and fun. Equipped with a large piece of canvas and permanent markers, renowned artists faced up in the quest of turning random words into convincing illustrations.

The "girls team" (Tani DaReal, Nimrais and Eosfoxx) was separated from the "boys team" (Colifox, J.D. Puppy and Yamaru) by a screen, making it impossible for them to see what their competitors were drawing. They had two minutes to turn a randomly selected prompt into a picture. Hilarity was guaranteed, asking the artists to draw things such as zombie mothers, three-headed lions or Armageddon. In a masterpiece of recycling existing drawings, Colifox turned a fleet of UFOs into tasty Eurofurence burgers. In the end, the boys' banner got the most applause and carried the victory. "They were a bit cheekier and risked more," commented Fairlight. Still, neither the girls nor the audience had any regrets; the quality and inventiveness of the impromptu-drawings was impressive and everybody had a good time. (lux)

Qualifiers Are...

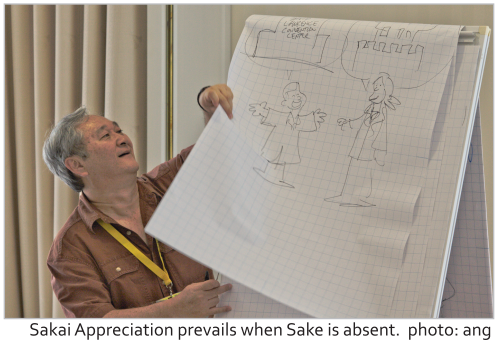
The following teams have qualified for the Fursuit Game Show:

1.	Team 20	Faert and Acida	82.95%
2.	Team 22	Rakshass and Sofia	71.25%
3.	Team 12	Furfinn and Junkvist	70.78%
4.	Team 24	Cueball and Ravell	70.03%
5.	Team 16	Yien Ping and Buddy	69.66%
6.	Team 26	Redmoon Wolfen & Yotie	67.38%
7.	Team 23	Griseus and JBadger	66.43%
8.	Team 19	Asgra and Kashjew	66.26%

Announcements:

Due to Sakai Appreciation, Sake Appreciation has been moved to 12:00 in Dresden.

Super-Sponsors: Is It Worth It?



Sakai Appreciation prevails when Sake is absent. photo: ang

In the past, Eurofurence has offered its members two tiers of membership: A Regular Attending, and a Sponsor level. This year however, Eurofurence has chosen to follow the example of the American conventions, and offer a still-higher tiered rate: super-sponsor. This new tier also comes with special privileges and knick-knacks, unavailable to the majority of Eurofurence attendees: among these are separate lines for events, and reserved pre-seating for stage shows.

This raises certain questions, and seems to challenge certain ideals, long taken for granted at Eurofurence: mainly the idea that everyone is treated equally and no one has an advantage over another. So why has Eurofurence done this?

This past year has seen extraordinary price pressures, partly due to the move to a larger hotel in a new city, these were inevitable, and partly due to the changes in tax law. To keep the convention experience at least as good as it was in the past, let alone improve upon it, something had to be done: one solution was to do as other conventions have done and add a new tier.

Eurofurence chairman Cheetah is not worried about there being bad blood among the con-guests, as he argues that the extra contribution of the super-sponsors helps to keep prices down for the normal con-goers. "There are always people who feel they get less than others. But I don't think our benefits are excessive. And, to be honest, I would feel worse not giving the super-sponsors something in return for their money."

"I Like Guy Stuff"

With the third book of Heathen City hitting the Dealers' Den tables, Alex F. Vance was pleased to talk openly about his creation.

Heathen City's genesis started with a failed attempt at participating in the NaNoWriMo - the National Novel Writing Month. "When my 'serious' novel project failed to take off, I started over again and wrote a story just for me—full of guilty pleasure. It had sex, mystery and noir-elements; the kind of thing I would desperately enjoy reading," Maranatha was born.

The novel was made available online and quickly found acclaim. By the time it had grown to over 90,000 words, Alex was held back by wrist problems. He stalled writing and focused on editing other people's fiction for his newly founded Bad Dog Books press. Some years later, a mystery financier sweet-talked Alex into publishing Maranatha as a book. From then, things took on a dynamic of their own. "I honestly don't know when the project changed from a heavily illustrated book to a graphic novel," Alex claims.

In yesterday's SIG, he proudly presented the third installment of his series. As in the second book, the artwork was done by several artists. "I realized that producing 56 colour pages was simply too much work for any one person," he commented. Besides artistic prowess, what Alex expects of contributing artists, some of whom he has never met in person, is a talent for serialised art and, more than anything, endurance. He has seen more than one capable artist give up under the workload.

The universe Heathen City is set in is loosely based on Maranatha. Characters like Owen, the hustler and Malloy, his tougher-than-life Doberman friend re-appear. The stories defy genre—there is sex and violence, romance and catastrophe. "I like guy stuff," Alex admits: "Weapons, blood, action scenes. My writing should get your heart pumping, your dick hard and your brain running."

Is there a master-plan behind the Heathen City series? "Well, I know the final scene," Alex replies. "But I have more than one option how to get there." What is sure is that the series will be continued. "I know that I have enough material for eight to ten books." (lux)

comic: pegla

Our Furry Past

Modern Furry Fandom as we know it came into being in 1984. We know this because Fred Patten has pinpointed the event and written about it.

Who is this man? As a major "behind-the-scenes" figure, Fred has participated in or was key in the formation of Science Fiction, Fantasy, Manga, Anime, Western Animation, and Anthropomorphic – to us, "Furry" - fandoms; so much so that he is regarded as THE historian for Collective Fandom. He was principle in promoting Japanese Manga and Anime in the west, by convincing the Japanese that there was a viable market for their products in North America and in Europe. And he was there at the start of the Indie Comic Explosion, when Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Albedo, Omaha The Cat Dancer and Cerberus were published.

As a professional librarian, fan writer and historian, Fred built an impressive collection of pulp magazines, fan publications, first-edition books, manuscripts and screenplays, animation cels, and letters from major SF/Fantasy/Animation personalities, many now deceased.

But in April of 2005 Fred suffered a debilitating stroke, which confined him to a convalescent hospital and depleted his savings and pension, leaving him destitute; forced out of his apartment, Fred´s friends came to remove his collection. What they found was a treasure of historic relevance—over 800 boxes of documents and publications were picked up and in accordance with Fred´s wishes, delivered to the Eaton Collection of Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Utopian Writing, housed at the University of California, Riverside Campus.

Fred didn't plan this, but is at least still around to have a say in how his collection was treated. It is important that fans today take measures to preserve their own collections, as publishers go out of business, and on-line art and story archives disappear due to neglect, disinterest, or simple mechanical failure. If you have a collection of fan publications, comic books, or furry art, no matter how insignificant you may think it to be, you have a portion of Furry History, and possibly the only example still in existence. (rex)

Today's Timetable

Group Photo (Lobby).....11:30-12:00

Art Show
General Admission.....12:00–18:00
Closing.....18:00-20:00
Auction.....20:00-21:30

Dealers' Den
General Admission.....12:00–18:00

Super Sponsor
Sake Appreciation (Dresden).....12:00-13:30

Guest of Honour
Yokai and Other Creatures of the
Japanese Imagination.....13:30-15:00

Main Stage
Fursuit Gameshow 13:30–15:00
Fursuit Theatre: Jordan Blake and the
Temple of the Four Winds.....16:30-18:00
Uncle Kage vs 2.....22:00-01:00

Fursuit Photoshoot (Maritim 2)
Registration.....12:00–13:00
Shooting.....13:00–17:00

Artists and Writers
Planning Pictures,
Creating Concepts (Stutt).....13:30-15:00
Advanced Puppetry (Stutt).....15:00-16:30
A Thousand Words: What Writers
can Learn from Artists (Nürn)..15:00-16:00
A Thousand Ships: What Artists
can Learn from Writers (Nürn)..16:30-18:00
Effective Writing (Stutt).....16:30-18:00

Events
Truth and Rumours
About Obama (Dresden).....13:30-15:00
Advanced Second Life (Mün).....13:30-15:00
Cheetah Conservation
Fund Namibia (Nürn).....13:30-15:00
Open the Microphone (Dres).....15:00-16:30
Streifen (München).....15:00-16:40
Can you Feel the Beat Tonight (Halle) 15:00-18:00
Learning to Fly (Dres).....16:30-18:00
Streifen and Beyond (Mün).....16:40-18:00

Recurring
Artists' Lounge (Dresden)..... 20:00–
Dance Dance Revolution (Stutt)..... 20:00–
Video Game Corner (München)..... 20:00–
Game Corner (Halle)..... 20:00–

Impressum: Luxen: Michael Graf; Curry: Andreas Wieland; hHP: Hannu-Heikki Puupponen; Angus: Matthias Bauer; Batian_Lion: Phillip Belper; Ice-Wolf: Carlos Koch